Better World Showcase 2018

Demonstrating how the Faculty of Science & Engineering is Making a Difference

Physics for everyone

Initiative

Emma has a full-time role coordinating outreach and public engagement in the School of Physics & Astronomy, both developing and delivering activities herself and supporting staff and students in the School to communicate their research and their enthusiasm for physics. Last year P&A staff and students engaged over 15,000 members of the public in talks, workshops, schools activities, campus visits, science festivals, and exhibitions in museums and galleries.

Some initiatives Emma has led:

- twice-yearly week-long programme of astrophysics work experience for Year 12 students, which regularly gets upwards of 150 applications for 12 places
- Year 12 School Physicist of the Year awards for local schools
- offering 6-week undergraduate summer projects in developing new outreach resources and activities – this year, outputs included a virtual reality simulation using astrophysics data and a set of schools workshops aimed at getting girls into STEM
- overseeing the undergrad student volunteer group, which offers workshops to primary and secondary schools
- taking our activities beyond the already engaged audiences who choose to come to science festivals or university events – such as #ScienceX at the Trafford Centre, workshops at local libraries, and a stand on the physics of bees at a community festival

How Emma has Made a Difference

Emma’s worked closely with local schools and teachers to make sure the kind of physics outreach we’re offering is aligned with their needs, as well as ensuring that we’re reaching a diverse audience. With this in mind, she’s developed activities for primary school children as young as Reception class, events aimed at encouraging girls to study physics, and she’s prioritised requests from widening participation schools and community groups. The application process for the work experience week is designed so that young people who don’t have a parental link to the University have the opportunity for this experience.

http://www.physics.manchester.ac.uk/outreach/

Vote for the person or project you feel is doing the most to Make a Difference